

charging the raw material into a predetermined mold; and  
heat press forming the raw material charged into the mold.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 6, to read as follows:

-- Further, according to the method of a separator for a fuel cell of the present embodiment, the scaly natural graphite powder, i.e., the carbon powder, is used as the raw material, the amount of the binder can be reduced as compared with a case of using many kinds of carbon powder. That is, each particle constituting the scaly natural graphite powder that a thin piece, the scaly natural graphite powder itself exhibits the adhering force. Therefore the amount of the binder added for giving an adhering force to the carbon powder constituting the separator can be reduced. If the powder having average particle size ranging from 5 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and particle size distribution ranging from 1 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$  is used as the carbon powder, the necessary amount of the binder can be reduced compared to the case where the carbon powder having finer particles is used. Since the thermosetting resin used as the binder has no conductivity, only a small amount of the binder is required to be added to the raw material. As a result, conductivity of the manufactured separator can be improved. The aforementioned range of the particle constituting the carbon powder is selected such that the carbon powder and the binder can be uniformly mixed. --

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,643,956 to Sandelli, *et al.* ("Sandelli") in view of JP 69042781. These claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite for the use of the relative term "is minimized." Finally, claims 4, 9 and 10 have been allowed.

The Applicant has reviewed the June 6, 2002 Office Action, and respectfully submits the foregoing amendments and following remarks in response thereto. The Applicant wishes to express his gratitude for the allowance of claims 4, 9 and 10.

The Applicant has further amended claim 1 to address the pending § 112, second paragraph rejection along the lines of the Examiner's helpful suggestion, by incorporating the